

The meeting was called to order at 9:20 am.

In attendance were:

Members-Eric Offenbergs-Governor's Appointee, Jean Lynch/Paul Dolan-Northern District Representative, Harriet Powell-Southern District Representative, Ted Comerford-Eastern District Representative, and Gregg Cassidy-DEM Appointee.

Advisors-Kevin Nelson-Statewide Planning and Roylene Rides-at-the Door, NRCS State Conservationist.

Alicia Lehrer-SRICD, Tom Sandham-ERICD, Gina DeMarco and Wendy Hoyle-NRICD.

I. Minutes

Motion was made to accept the August 9th meeting minutes, Ted/Harriet.

Vote was unanimous.

II. Financial Report

The FY 05-06 Financial Statement was distributed. Motion was made

to accept the financial statement as presented, Harriet/Ted. Vote

was

unanimous.

III. Reports

a. Chair

Eric reported on the meeting with Kevin Flynn, Statewide Planning.

He would like a package sent to Kevin as soon as possible with the

State Committee' annual report, the districts annual reports and a brief

overview on the districts and how they can be of assistance to

Statewide planning. Eric would also like to contact Grover Fugate

RI STATE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

17 Smith Avenue, Greenville, RI 02828

949-1480

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, October 11, 2006

9:15 AM

USDA NRCS Conference Room

from CRMC to be put on their agenda for one of their board meetings.

b. Districts/Advisors

SRICD-The district will be moving their office tomorrow. Susan Letendre will

be laid off as of October 1st until there is additional funding for other projects.

Patty Gamborini will be leaving for another job. The district has applied for

for additional grants. The Annual Dinner will be using only local grown food products.

ERICD-The district has worked on about 45 farm conservation

plans. The beef

marketing program has applied for a \$25,000 grant and plan on hiring a manager for the

RI Meat Cooperative from these funds. Local farmers are asking the district to assist

them with planting warm season grass. Tom has been working with them on his own

time and using his own equipment for this. Tom has also been working on a demo site

that includes experimental grasses and hay fields. Tom has taken this on because they

can not find any contractors who will do small projects.

NRICD-distributed their report.

NRCS-\$100,000 of the farm bill funding was not spent and had to be returned.

Mike Merrill and Mike Kenyon will be the supervising DC's for field staff.

There will be a farewell party for Vicky Drew as she has taken a job in Vermont.

Chip is the new IT who will be working on equipment for NRCS and the districts.

They have been working on their goals for next year and hope to receive about \$13

million for projects. December 1st is the deadline for EQIP

and WHIP and there will

be outreach to the communities in each district.

Statewide Planning-They have been working on the state solid waste management plan.

This is a long range plan for trash and recycling for the state.

DEM-Gregg reported that the Division Forestry is able to provide the additional

funding needed to print 5,000 Citizens Guides. Gregg is looking for updates that need to be made on the guide.

The committee would like to see more outreach to the municipalities regarding the FFOS program. This will be put on next meetings agenda.

IV. Old Business

a. State Funding

Jean Lynch, Northern District Chair, had sent a letter to Eric regarding the distribution

of additional state funding. She indicated that at the February 8th meeting the State

Committee voted to divide these funds between the three districts and the Northern

District was counting on these funds to make their budget.

Eric is concerned that if

the districts rely on this and then it is not available in the future, then it will be harder for

the districts to work within their budgets. Eric would like to see these funds go for

office renovations, etc; but after discussion it was decided to divide these funds

between the three districts for this year only.

b. Ag Land Preservation Project

There has been no meeting at this time and are waiting for the rules and regulations to be passed.

c. ERICD Challenge Grant

The Eastern District submitted a proposal for bio-diversity workshops. They would

like to introduce farmers to alternative fuel sources for their farm trucks and equipment.

Motion was made to accept the Eastern District's proposal for the Challenge

Grant, Ted/Harriet. Vote was unanimous.

d. Cooperation Between Districts Policy

Kevin Nelson worked on the wording for this policy and presented to the Committee.

Motion was made to accept the policy as submitted, Ted/Paul. Vote was unanimous.

V. New Business

a. RIACD Strategic Planning Workshop

The Association is looking into when they can hold the workshop. They are

questioning the time needed to plan the workshop. It was suggested that they would

need about 6 months and January/February is probably the best time to hold it.

The association is looking into funding sources to subsidize the workshop.

VI. Other

-The water and land summit will be held in March.

Motion was made to adjourn at 10:50 am, Ted/Harriet. Vote was unanimous.